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Cc: Thomas, Barbara[thomas.barbara@epa.gov]; Goodrick, John[Goodrick.John@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Williams, Laura
Sent: Mon 11/16/2015 9:30:05 PM
Subject: Snow/Blizzard Warning / Response Staff Meeting is Cancelled

All:

Our only topic for tomorrow's Response Unit Staff Meeting was to develop a list of topics that we want to be sure is in the hot wash for the Gold King Mine. I have re-scheduled this for Thursday afternoon at 2 pm and cancelling tomorrow's staff meeting due to the weather predictions. Please let me know if you plan on telecommuting tomorrow (or just submit a telecommuting request through Webforms). Stay safe tonight and tomorrow. – lw

From: Buhl, Rick
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 11:18 AM
To: R8 All Employee
Subject: Weather Update - Snow/Blizzard Warning for Denver Metro Area Tonight

Good Morning,

Looks like El Nino is finally headed our way this evening... The forecast is for 5 to 9 inches of snow tonight in the Denver area and a Blizzard Warning overnight as well (forecast details below). If the storm comes in as forecast, I am anticipating that we will have unscheduled leave and/or unscheduled tele-work with your supervisors' approval for tomorrow morning (see details below). I will evaluate the conditions tomorrow morning and make a final decision about our operating status; however, I encourage employees and supervisors to discuss/prepare for the upcoming weather.

REMINDERS

As this is our first real weather event of the year, I would like to remind everyone that the Region 8 Weather Update emails and severe weather line messages do not constitute blanket approval to telework. You MUST have your supervisors' approval to telework. The approval can be granted the night before if you have sought approval or within 1 hour of your scheduled start time the day of the message. Also, if you want to take unscheduled leave, you have to notify your supervisor within 2 hours of your normal start time.

The most common operating status message is as follows: "The Denver and Golden offices are open with the option for unscheduled leave without prior approval, and/or unscheduled telework with prior approval. All employees are expected to report to work at their scheduled reporting time. If you believe conditions prohibit your reporting to the office, you may take annual leave without prior approval and/or telework with approval, for all or part of the day. If you decide to take annual leave for the entire day, you must notify your supervisor within two hours of your normal start time. If you would like to telework, you must request approval from your supervisor within one hour of your normal start time. Please change your voice mail greeting to reflect your availability."

If you have questions, please contact Maria Zarate our Region 8 LER @ 312-6474.

The Severe Weather Line is (303) 312-6989. I make every attempt to have the message out by 5:30am.

FORECAST

Tonight

A chance of rain and snow before 7pm, then snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Widespread blowing snow after 11pm. Low around 30. Windy, with a north wind 16 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 36 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 5 to 9 inches possible.

Also, NWS has issued a Blizzard Warning for the Denver/Boulder Area:

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DENVER/BOULDER CO

557 AM MST MON NOV 16 2015

...BLIZZARD CONDITIONS ACROSS MUCH OF THE NORTHEAST COLORADO
PLAINS TONIGHT AND TUESDAY WITH AREAS OF HEAVY SNOW IN THE
MOUNTAINS...

.A STRONG WINTER STORM WILL MOVE ACROSS COLORADO TONIGHT AND INTO
WESTERN KANSAS BY TUESDAY AFTERNOON. THE STORM WILL PRODUCE HEAVY
SNOW IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THEN SNOW...AND VERY STRONG WINDS ON THE
PLAINS. BLIZZARD CONDITIONS WILL DEVELOP IN AREAS ROUGHLY ALONG
AND SOUTH OF INTERSTATE 76 LATE TONIGHT...WITH CONDITIONS
IMPROVING FROM WEST TO EAST DURING THE DAY TUESDAY. WINTER TRAVEL
CONDITIONS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE MOUNTAINS BY THIS AFTERNOON.

THE WORST CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO OCCUR FROM THE SOUTHERN AND
EASTERN SECTIONS OF THE DENVER METRO AREA EAST TOWARDS LIMON AND
AKRON. IN THESE AREAS ROAD CLOSURES ARE LIKELY DUE TO WHITEOUT
CONDITIONS AND DRIFTING OF HEAVY SNOW. SOME PLACES MAY RECEIVE
OVER A FOOT OF SNOW ALONG WITH WIND GUSTS TO 60 MPH. IN AREAS
NORTH OF INTERSTATE 76 THE SNOW WILL BE LIGHTER...BUT THE STRONG
WINDS WILL STILL CAUSE EXTENSIVE BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW AND
HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS.

Rick

Rick Buhl

Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Technical and Management Services

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Need a Meeting? Contact Missy Haniewicz at 303-312-7059